

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 DLOS-04 EB-07 COME-00 INT-05

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R 061609Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1949

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12678

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, EFIS,XQ

SUBJECT: FRG - ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0870

1. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND MET WITH FONOFF DEPUTY
DIRECTOR RUHFUS ON AUGUST 5 FOR A DEBRIEFING ON
THE VARIOUS BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS CONDUCTED BY
THE GERMANS DURING THE CSCE SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN
HELSINKI LAST WEEK (REPORTED SEPTTEL). THE AMBASSADOR
ASKED RUHFUS WHETHER THE GERMANS HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY
TO DISCUSS THEIR FISHERIES DISPUTE WITH THE ICELANDERS.

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RUHFUS REPLIED THAT THIS, UNFORTUNATELY, WAS NOT THE

CASE. RUHFUS SAID FONMIN GENSCHER WANTED TO TALK TO ICELANDIC FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON, BUT THAT THE MEETING NEVER MATERIALIZED.

2. THE AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED THE POTENTIAL SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AS SEEN FROM THE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE (REFTEL), CITING IN PARTICULAR THE POSSIBLE DANGER TO THE KEFLAVIK INSTALLATION. RUHFUS REPLIED THAT THE FONOFF SHARED OUR CONCERN AND WAS AWARE OF THE POSSIBLE SERIOUS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS WHICH MAY ENSUE IF THE DISPUTE IS NOT SETTLED. HE CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ICELANDERS HAVE NOT MADE THE SITUATION EASY FOR THE FRG. THEY HAVE NEVER OFFERED A COUNTERPROPOSAL, BUT INSTEAD WENT AHEAD UNILATERALLY WITH AN EXTENSION OF THEIR SEA FRONTIER.

3. RUHFUS SAID GENSCHER HAS BEEN QUITE ACTIVE IN SEEKING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IN THE FRG. HE HAS ALREADY MET WITH FISHING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN BREMEN WHERE AN ELECTION IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN THE FALL. RUHFUS REFERRED TO THE ARCTURUS INCIDENT (IN WHICH AN FRG FISHING TRAWLER WAS HINDERED BY AN ICELANDIC PATROL BOAT) AS THE KEY EVENT WHICH LATER RESULTED IN THE GERMANS FORBIDDING THE ICELANDERS TO LAND THEIR FISHING BOATS AT BREMERHAVEN OR WILHELMSHAVEN. RUHFUS THEN REITERATED THE POINT THAT THE GERMANS ARE LOOKING FOR SOME BASIS TO REOPEN TALKS. HE WONDERED WHETHER ICELAND WOULD RESPECT TRADITIONAL GERMAN FISHING RIGHTS WITHIN THE 50-200 MILE ZONE. RUHFUS CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT THE FRG WILL CONSULT CLOSELY WITH THE UK ON WHAT LINE TO TAKE WITH ICELAND.

4. COMMENT: FROM THE FOREGOING DISCUSSION, IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHAT SPECIFIC ACTION, IF ANY, THE FRG CONTEMPLATES WHICH WOULD LEAD THE PARTIES OUT OF THE CURRENT IMPASSE. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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